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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Possible Soviet Recruitment for Korea

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1. In May or June 1951 a colonel came to our regiment [redacted] to ask for volunteers for some kind of airborne unit. I do not know whether the request was made in other units. Approximately 30 men, [redacted] volunteered from [redacted] for this service. [redacted]

I know of no other rejections for this or any other reason. In about five or six days the volunteers appeared briefly before some kind of commission in divisional headquarters, where they were interviewed. They were all accepted, and they departed shortly thereafter. [redacted]

Most of them were privates, but a few were sergeants. The only time I heard of them again was in the fall of 1951 from a friend of mine who had been in a school for chauffeurs in an Austrian town near the Czech or the Hungarian border. I can not recall the name of this town, but I think it was approximately 100 km. from Traiskirchen, Austria. This friend, [redacted] told me that he had met some of these volunteers from our regiment and that they were training in the vicinity of the town where he was attending school. He stated that the men had been issued PPSs and were undergoing extremely intensive tactical training. This training course lasted about a month and the men left very soon thereafter. My friend did not know their destination but he told me that the men were grumbling and regretted their decision to volunteer. The very rigorous training was one cause of their complaints, but their particularly bitter objection was the extremely current rumor among them that they were scheduled to depart for Korea. My friend did not know the basis for this rumor; he only knew that the men seemed convinced that they would be shipped to Korea. He did not mention the size of this training unit or the organization in charge of the training. He never mentioned

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any glider or parachute training so I assume that none took place there.

2. Another friend [REDACTED] had a brother who 25X1
in 1950 had been sent to an AAA unit somewhere in the Maritime
Provinces of the Soviet Far East. In the fall of 1951 his brother
sent him a letter full of misgivings and pessimism. His brother 25X1
stated that he was in a very unenviable position and that they would
very likely not see each other again. He also wrote that his unit
was being transferred and that no more letters should be sent
him until he provided a new address. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had received no word from his brother.
The tenor of the letter and the absence of correspondence convinced
my friend that his brother had left with his unit for Korea.
3. A situation similar to this occurred in connection with a fellow
kolkhoz worker who had left for the Maritime Provinces of the Soviet
Far East in 1950. He too was assigned to an AAA unit of the Soviet
Army. In the fall of 1951 he wrote me that his unit was moving
and suggested that I not write until I received a new address from
him. The absence of any further correspondence from him and the
despondent tenor of the letter convinced me that he too had left
for Korea.

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